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Security Council

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Letter dated 27 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of its reaction to remarks made by the President of the Rwandese Republic.

On 21 December 2001, my Government issued a statement that reads as follows:

> "The Government of the Republic has learned with indignation, through the international media, of remarks made by the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, to the effect that he had already withdrawn half of his troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This deceitful claim by President Kagame, made during a press conference in Kigali on Wednesday, 19 December 2001, is pure propaganda designed to gain time and to delay the actual withdrawal of these forces of aggression from the Congo.
>
> The Congolese Government maintains that only the military observers of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the Joint Military Commission (JMC) can provide authoritative account of troop movements on the ground. Mr. Namanga Ngongi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and head of MONUC, recently reported a build-up of Rwandan forces in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; this build-up has, moreover, been confirmed by independent international humanitarian bodies working in these territories and has been reported with outrage by the local population.
>
> The fact that Mr. Kagame seeks to accuse the United Nations of 'contradictions' is a sign of the nervousness that he displays at every attempt to discuss calmly the withdrawal of his army of aggression from the Congo.
>
> The Rwandan President seeks to minimize the number of his troops in the Congo — which he estimates at 10,000 men — while acknowledging that his troop units in the field may change position in response to imaginary threats which he alone sees. These changes of position constitute a flagrant violation of all the United Nations resolutions which plainly require Rwanda to withdraw its troops from the Congo and of the disengagement agreements and plans signed by Rwanda within the framework of the Lusaka peace process.

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No resolution or disengagement plan authorizes the rotation of foreign troops within Congolese territory.

Since early 2001, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has demonstrated its willingness to cooperate effectively with all parties to ensure the restoration of peace, not only in the Congo but throughout the Great Lakes region.

It calls on the international community to step up pressure on Rwanda and Uganda with a view to securing the complete withdrawal of their forces of aggression from Congolese territory.

Kinshasa, 21 December 2001

Kikaya bin Karubi
Ambassador and Government Spokesman"

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative